Steptoe's competition practice helps clients manage risks and challenges associated with doing business in Europe, including distribution and e-commerce, merger and joint ventures, exclusionary practices, and EU antitrust compliance. Clients call upon our in-depth antitrust experience at the intersection with copyright and patent laws as well as on emerging issues associated with big data and artificial intelligence.

We defend corporations in investigations before the Commission (DG COMP) as well as national competition authorities (NCAs), in appeals before the EU Court of Justice, and in follow-on litigation in civil courts.

**Our EU Competition Experience at a Glance**

In a nutshell, members of our EU competition team have handled:

- 16 dawn raids
- 25 cartels and investigations
- 6 sector inquiries
- 10 cartel and dawn raids litigation cases
- 6 abuse of dominance investigations and complaints
- 100 compliance initiatives
- 150 merger control cases
- 2 major follow-on civil litigations in English courts

We help clients with:

- Dawn raids, fine settlement proceedings, follow-on civil litigation
- Merger filing analysis, phase I and II merger review, remedies negotiations
- Self-assessments and advice on pricing, distribution, and IP licensing
- Compliance for trade associations and standard-setting organizations
- Coordination of investigations by NCAs

**Noteworthy**


**Representative Matters**
Cartel Investigations, Restrictive Practices, and Dawn Raids

- Advising a leading online video-streaming company in the e-commerce sector inquiry, the Portability Regulation and the revision of the Audio-Visual Media Services Directive as well as other competition-related matters (including net neutrality, interconnection, and telecom mergers)
- Conducting an internal audit for a multinational industrial manufacturer of business practices challenged by whistleblower and devising enhanced compliance training
- Representing a global industrial group regarding the investigation by the UK Competition and Markets Authority into its subsidiary’s minimum online advertised price policy and settling with the maximum possible penalty discounts for cooperation, compliance and early settlement
- Representing a leading Asian chemical company in an ongoing European Commission investigation into electronics components for mobile and portable devices and a parallel litigation before the English courts
- Advising a major health care insurer in relation to an investigation by the UK Competition and Markets Authority into the private health care market
- Representing Japan Airlines in a series of English court litigations in connection with the Airfreight case

Unilateral Conduct by Dominant Companies

- Advising a leading supplier of consumer products on bundling, tying and rebate schemes
- Representing a major consumer electronics group in its antitrust defense against a standard essential patent action introduced by a competitor in France
- Securing a favorable outcome for the REEL Group, a French engineering group, in the European Commission’s antitrust investigation into Rio Tinto Alcan’s tying practice in the aluminum sector
- Advising and representing a testing software vendor in an antitrust investigation involving refusal to supply interoperability information
- Advising a leading technology company relating to an alleged abuse of a dominant position by its main rival and also advising on a proposed bundling, tying and rebate scheme.

Mergers, Acquisitions, and Joint Ventures

- Representing US defense group in the demerger of its joint venture with a French defense group
- Advising a European food group in a major French acquisition
- Advising an international communications network in a strategic acquisition
- Advising a leading internet video streaming provider on a number of telecom mergers in Europe
- Advising Rockwell Collins Inc. on the EU and third country merger control aspects of its acquisition of ARINC Inc.

Antitrust Compliance

- Assisting an international services group in their bid-rigging / consortia bidding compliance
- Advising on the EU competition law aspects of the licensing of globally-recognized brands
- Advising an international financial services company on its market data gathering practices and possible information exchange issues
- Advising a global insurance group on the creation of an international health insurance consortium with a German-based insurance company
- Acting as outside counsel to the board of directors of a biotech trade association on a broad range of compliance issues
- Advising a leading supplier of high-end sport goods in relation to online commerce (RPMs, MFNs, hub & spokes)

News & Publications

MEDIA MENTIONS

MLex Quotes Yumiko Takahashi on EU’s Goal for Foreign Subsidy Rules
July 10, 2020

CLIENT ALERTS

Relation Between EU and UK Competition Law Post-Brexit
July 1, 2020
By: Charles Whiddington, David O’Sullivan, Christophe Bondy
CLIENT ALERTS
The General Court Clarifies the Legal Test and Evidentiary Burden to Support Prohibition of Acquisitions under EU Merger Control Regulation
June 10, 2020
By: Charles Whiddington, Zanda Romata

CLIENT ALERTS
Brexit Talks at an Impasse: But Hope of an Agreement is Not Entirely Dead
June 8, 2020
By: David O'Sullivan, Christophe Bondy, Yumiko Takahashi

CLIENT ALERTS
The European Commission's 'New Competition Tool' Would Allow Enforcers to Monitor the Competitiveness of the Digital Market
June 4, 2020
By: Charles Whiddington, Yumiko Takahashi

PUBLICATIONS
State Support and Competition Law in Times of a Pandemic
Swiss Law Review
May 2020
By: Simon Hirsbrunner

CLIENT ALERTS
New Competition Law Approaches to Digital Markets
April 10, 2020
By: Charles Whiddington, Veronica Ganzitti

CLIENT ALERTS
UK Competition Law and COVID-19
April 3, 2020
By: Charles Whiddington, Angus Rodger, Zanda Romata

CLIENT ALERTS
Changes to EU Competition Rules in Times of COVID-19
March 30, 2020
By: Charles Whiddington, Simon Hirsbrunner, Paul Hughes, Zanda Romata, Veronica Ganzitti, Yumiko Takahashi

CLIENT ALERTS
Temporary Framework for State Aid Measures During the COVID-19 Crisis
March 30, 2020
By: Simon Hirsbrunner, Charles Whiddington, Yumiko Takahashi, Veronica Ganzitti

Events
WEBINARS
Sustainability & Competition Law – Hand in Glove or All Alone?
October 7, 2020
Speaker: Charles Whiddington

WEBINARS
Enforcement of Digital Markets: The European Commission's "New Competition Tool"
July 30, 2020
Speaker: Charles Whiddington
WEBINARS

Online Platforms: A Competition Analysis of the New Ex-Ante EU Regulatory Instrument
July 23, 2020
Speaker: Charles Whiddington

ON DEMAND

EU Competition Law: A Powerful Tool in Post-COVID-19 Business Recovery
June 4, 2020
Speakers: Simon Hirsbrunner, Paul Hughes, Charles Whiddington, Danyal Arnold

WEBINARS

How Far Can Brands Control the Online Resale of Their Products? EU Competition Enforcement Outlook
January 31, 2019

WEBINARS

No Poach Agreements - A New Enforcement Focus on HR Activities?
January 10, 2019
Speakers: Paul Hughes, John J. Kavanagh

WEBINARS

Bypassing Distributors by Selling Direct to Customers
Opportunities and Antitrust Risks in the EU
May 31, 2018
Speaker: Paul Hughes

SEMINARS & EVENTS

The Day After Coty
Implications for Online Distribution of Brands in Europe
December 7, 2017
Steptoe
Avenue Louise 489
B-1050 Brussels

WEBINARS

Most Favored Nation Clauses: Is it the End of the Road?
EU Competition Webinar Series (Part IV)
October 25, 2017

WEBINARS

Staying Clear of Online Pricing Pitfalls
EU Competition Webinar Series (Part III)
September 20, 2017
Speaker: Paul Hughes

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